

*Washington, DC* -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), who serves on the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, today announced that he is facilitating discussions between BAE, the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Air Force, the Broome Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and other stakeholders to find a suitable arrangement that will allow BAE to maintain its presence in the Southern Tier.

"The building BAE currently inhabits in Westover was destroyed by the September flooding," said Hinchey. "My office is currently facilitating discussions between all of the stakeholders to ensure that BAE's new location is in the Southern Tier. Keeping these jobs in the Southern Tier is of the highest priority. There are suitable locations in the region, and I'm working to help make federal funding available through the Department of Commerce to help smooth the transition. I believe there is room for a deal to keep these jobs in the area. The recent flood caused by Tropical Storm Lee had a devastating effect on BAE and its employees, and I'm going to do everything I can to ensure that the company stays in the region."

Federal assistance for BAE through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Agency can be provided as a result of President Obama's Major Disaster Declaration made in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Lee.

In 1993, Hinchey brokered a deal through the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, which allowed the Air Force and IDA to maintain defense contracting work at the Westover facility. He remains hopeful that a new deal can be reached to keep BAE in the region.